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09/739,990	12/18/2000	Richard Chang	57165-5019	7389

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EXAMINER

VAN, QUANG T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3742

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES

Paper No. 17

Application Number: 09/739,990  
Filing Date: December 18, 2000  
Appellant(s): CHANG ET AL.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rod S. Berman  
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

MAILED  
JAN 08 2002  
GROUP 3700

This is in response to the appeal brief filed November 25, 2002.

**(1) Real Party in Interest**

A statement identifying the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

**(2) Related Appeals and Interferences**

A statement identifying the related appeals and interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the decision in the pending appeal is contained in the brief.

**(3) Status of Claims**

The statement of the status of the claims contained in the brief is correct.

**(4) Status of Amendments After Final**

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

**(5) Summary of Invention**

The summary of invention contained in the brief is correct.

**(6) Issues**

The appellant's statement of the issues in the brief is correct.

**(7) Grouping of Claims**

Claim 44 is the only claim in this appeal.

**(8) Claims Appealed**

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

**(9) Prior Art of Record**

5,142,123	Chou	8-1992
542,359	Netherlands	11-1955
040,687	Taiwanese	4-1988

**(10) Grounds of Rejection**

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claim 44 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chou (US 5,142,123) in view of Netherlands (542,359) both cited by applicant, and further in view of Taiwanese (040,687). The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claim:

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 44 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chou (US 5,142,123), in view of Patent (Netherlands 542,359) both cited by applicant and further in view of Patent (Taiwanese 040,687) also cited by applicant. Chou'123 discloses an electric heat sealer comprising a housing (1), a press bar (2) pivotally connected to said housing (1), a heating unit (6) mounted a heat insulate base (63), the heat insulate base (63) mounted in said housing (1), a source of current (10), and circuitry electrically connection said heating unit and said source of current. However, Chou'123 does not disclose a heating unit mounted in said press bar and a free end of said press bar is pivoted downwardly said metal press plate causes said circuit to close,

Art Unit: 3742

wherein said metal press plate is secured to said press bar. Netherland'542,359 shows an electric heat sealer having a heating unit (7) mounted in said press bar (1).

Taiwanese'687 shows a free end of a press bar (20) is pivoted downwardly a metal press plate (14) causes said circuit (15) to close, wherein said metal press plate is secured to a base (10). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize in Chou'123 a heating unit mounted in said press bar as taught by Netherlands'359 in order to provide heat directly to the object from the top, and a free end of said press bar is pivoted downwardly said metal press plate causes said circuit to close as taught by Taiwanese'687 in order to activate a heating mechanism. With regard to "said metal press plate is secured to said press bar", <sup>Taiwanese'687</sup> ~~Netherlands'359~~ only shows said metal press plate is secured to a base (10) instead of a press bar. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to secure a metal press plate to a press bar, since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. *In Japikse*, 86 USPQ 70.

### **(11) Response to Argument**

I. Appellant argues that "there is no motivation to combine contained in Chou'123, Netherlands'359 and Taiwanese'687" recited on page 6 of Brief of Appeal.

A. Taiwanese'687 disparaging alternating current (AC) power supplies.

The Applicant argues that Taiwanese'687 disparages sealers that are powered by AC power supplies, as the Netherlands'359 sealer is. The Taiwanese'687 and Netherlands'359 references are not cited for the type of their power supplies, but for the teaching of a heating unit mounted in a press bar and a free end of said press bar pivoting said metal press plate downwardly to cause a circuit to close. Additionally, Chou'123 discloses that an electric handheld heater can be powered by means of an AC or DC power supply, which provides support for using either type of the heater power supply.

B. Smaller sealer vs. larger sealer.

The Applicant argues that "one of the objectives that Taiwanese'687 attempts to achieve includes a smaller, portable design, which is opposite to what is taught by Netherlands'359". Sealers made by different brand names will have different sizes and their sizes also depend on the sizes of product they are intended to seal. Therefore, that Taiwanese'687 and Netherlands'359 sealers have different sizes is considered normal. Taiwanese'687 and Netherlands'359 are both in the electric heat sealers art; thus, they are considered to be analogous.

C. Metal press plate is secured to the press bar.

The appellant argues that Taiwanese'687 only shows the metal press plate is secured to a base, instead of a press bar. The Taiwanese'687 shows metal press plate 14 is secured to a base 10 (bottom). The metal press plate functions to disengage the switch and turn-off the heater when no pressure is acting on the press bar. Its function will perform the same whether it is mounted on the top (press bar) or in the bottom (the base). Therefore, the examiner considers that it is not patentable when a mechanical mounting piece is mounted in reverse and its function is performed exactly the same.

Further, the examiner recognizes that references cannot be arbitrarily combined and that there must be some reason why one skilled in the art would be motivated to make the proposed combination of primary and secondary references. *In re Nomiya*, 184 USPQ 607 (CCPA 1975). However, there is no requirement that a motivation to make the modification be expressly articulated. The test for combining references is what the combination of disclosures taken as a whole would suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art. *In re McLaughlin*, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971). References are evaluated by what they suggest to one versed in the art, rather than by their specific disclosures. *In re Bozek*, 163 USPQ 545 (CCPA 1969).

II. Even assuming the combination of Chou'123, Netherlands'359 and Taiwanese'687 is proper, the combined references neither teach nor suggest the combination as taught by appellant.

The Applicant argues that "if the press plate is moved to another location, the function of the press plate would be changed from being biasing and a switch activation mechanism to being a biasing means only, and requiring another mechanism to activate the switch" and "the references, specifically Taiwanese'687, in fact teaches away from securing the metal press plate to the press bar as doing so would require that the wire connecting the metal press plate to the power source be extended so that it would still reach the metal press plate".

Taiwanese'687 only shows said metal press plate (14) is secured to a base (10) instead of a press bar (20). One having ordinary skill in the art would reverse the mounting to secure a metal press plate to a press bar, since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. Here, the rearranging parts means reverse mounting of the press plate. It only requires the re-positioning of the mechanical structure of the metal press plate (14) from the bottom (the base 10) to the top (the press bar 20); thus, it does not change any switching condition, its function is will perform the same whether the metal press plate is mounted on the top (press bar) or in the bottom (the base) and also does not require any extended electric wire. Therefore, one



having ordinary skill in the art could select either mounting the metal press plate on the base or on the press bar would provide the heater with the same result. Therefore, claim 44 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.



Respectfully submitted,




QV

January 6, 2003

Conferees

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